Performance in Economic Field

2763. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of its performance in economic field during last one year;

(b) if so, how far this has been able to close the gap between people's aspirations and Government's performance;

(c) what have been the failures; and

(d) how Government propose to address these failures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The Government periodically assesses the progress in the economic field by monitoring the movement of macro variables and related parameters. These assessments are documented in the Economic Survey published annually by the Government. According to the latest Economic Survey pertaining to 1998-99, the economy recovered to an estimated GDP growth of 5.8 per cent in 1998-99 from 5 per cent in the previous year.

The recovery in 1998-99 was led by the rebound in agriculture and allied sectors which is likely to grow by 5.3 per cent. In 1998-99, the growth of GDP from manufacturing is 5.7 per cent, electricity gas and water supply is 6.3 per cent, trade hotels transport and communications is 6.8 per cent.

The inflation rate, which peaked at 8.8 per cent in late September, 1998 has dropped steeply from December to below 5 per cent in January. Average inflation for the whole of 1998-99 will, however, be higher than the 4.8 per cent registered in 1997-98.

Poverty Line in Assam

2764. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people in Assam who have been brought above the poverty line by granting Central assistance, district-wise;

(b) the number of people who are still below the poverty line in the State as on 31st March, 1999, district-wise; and

(c) the allocation of funds made for this purpose during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Central Plan Assistance to Assam has increased from Rs. 980.99 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 1447.33 crores in 1998-99. Nevertheless, the poverty ratio in rural areas of Assam as per the last assessment (district-wise information is not available), rose from 42.60% in 1983 to 45.01% in 1993-94. The per capita State Domestic Product (SDP), at constant prices (1980-81), has risen from Rs. 1575 in 1991-92 to Rs. 1628 (provisional) in 1996-97.

(c) The indicative Ninth Plan allocation for Assam is Rs. 8983.93 crores. However, under the poverty alleviation programmes viz., Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), allocations are made annually. The allocations for poverty alleviation programmes (comprising the Centre and